

REMARKS

By the present amendment, applicant is amending the description of the specification to clarify what is shown in the drawings and is amending the drawings to correct same and to place them into conformity with the description. Applicant's attorney has checked these amendments and does not find any of them to contain new matter.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-23 and 25-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by the Huang U.S. Patent No. 5,373,639 as this rejection may be attempted to be applied to the amended claims 1-32, is respectfully traversed.

In support of this traverse it is important to note that claim s 1, 8 and 9 have been amended to call for a connector including a pin which is received in a slot in a head member. Claims 14 and 26 have been amended to call for a connector which is connected to at least one leg and to a blade and which is received in and movable in a slot in a head member.

Huang provides a connector, namely "transmission links 30 and 32" which are two parts and which are not received in a slot in a head member as called for in applicants' claims 1 8 and 9 and in claims 14 and 26.

Further Huang does not teach or suggest a connector that operatively connects a first leg and a cutting blade as called for in the amended claims.

As brought out in the amended claims now even more clearly,

"when the first and second legs are in an open position, the cutting blade is in a retracted condition within the transverse slit in the head member, and when the first and second legs are pivoted, each, respectively, about its pivot connection to the head member to a closed position, the connector is caused to move in the elongate slot causing the cutting blade to move relative to the transverse slit and across the cutting chamber into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of the shield portion."

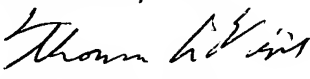
Huang does not function in this manner and does not provide or suggest structure that will function in this manner.

Claims 7 and 12, found to contain allowable subject matter have been rewritten into independent form.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application and the amended claims thereof into condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By 
Thomas R. Vigil
Registration No. 24,542

Date: February , 2004

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 655-1500

FIG. 1

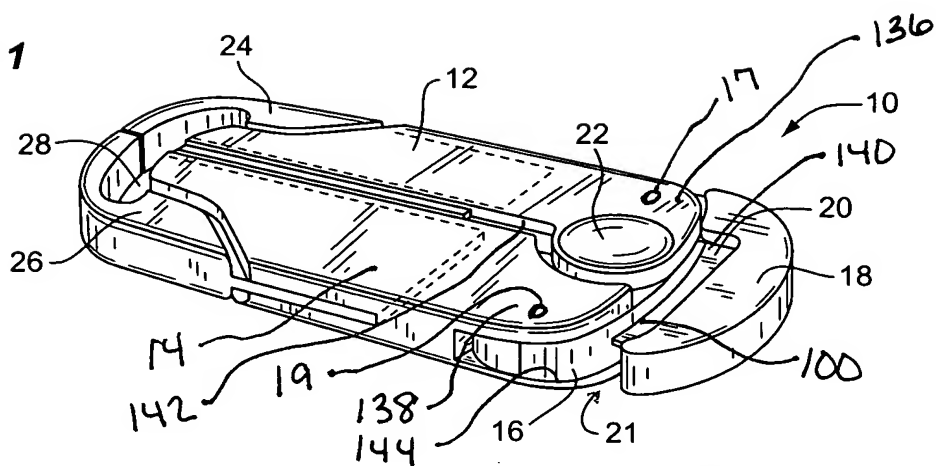


FIG. 2

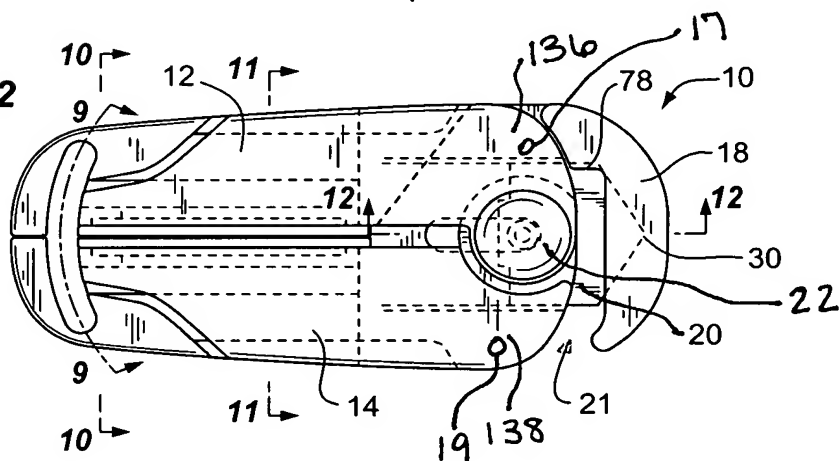


FIG. 3

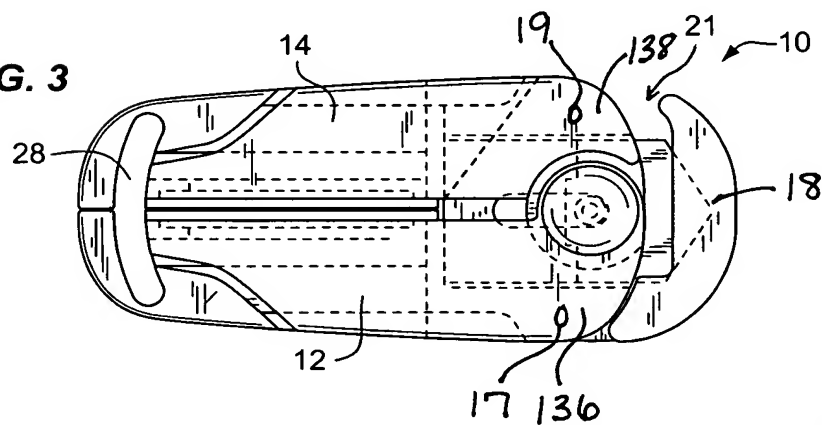
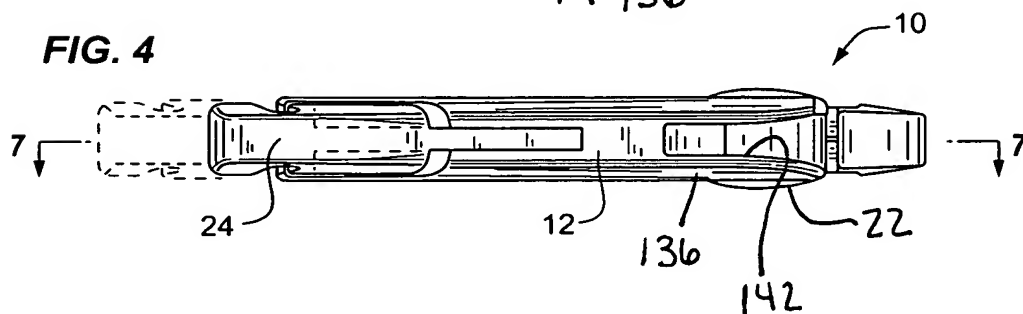
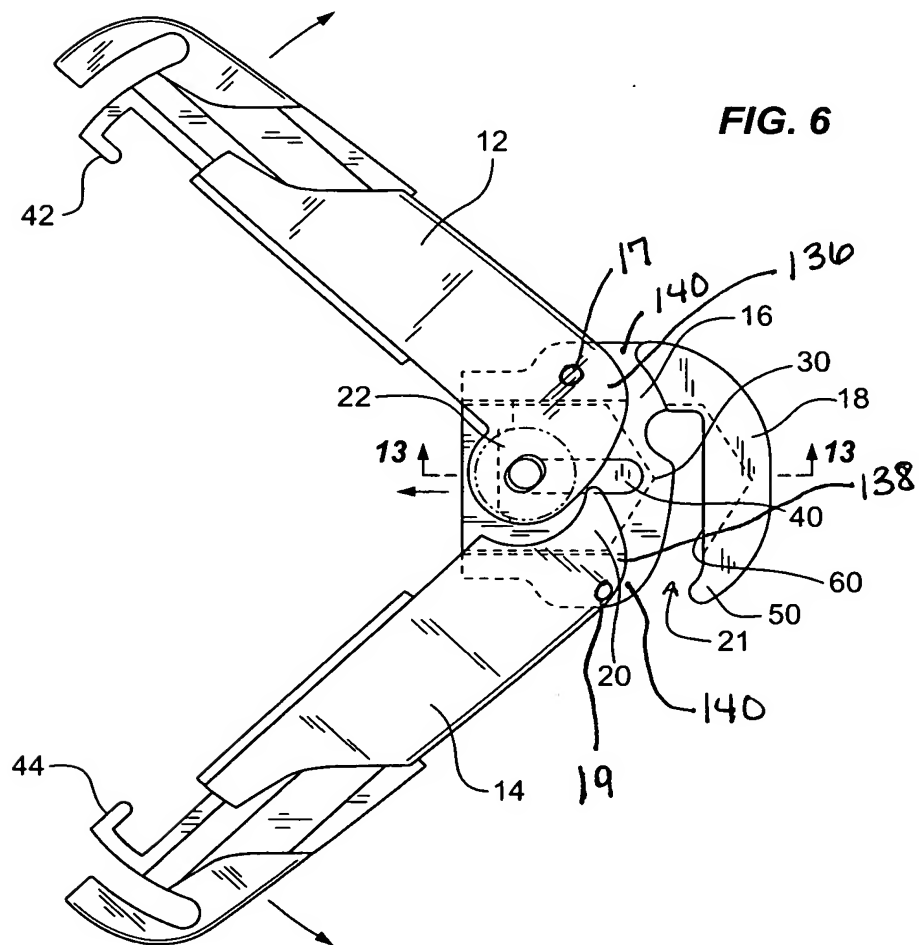
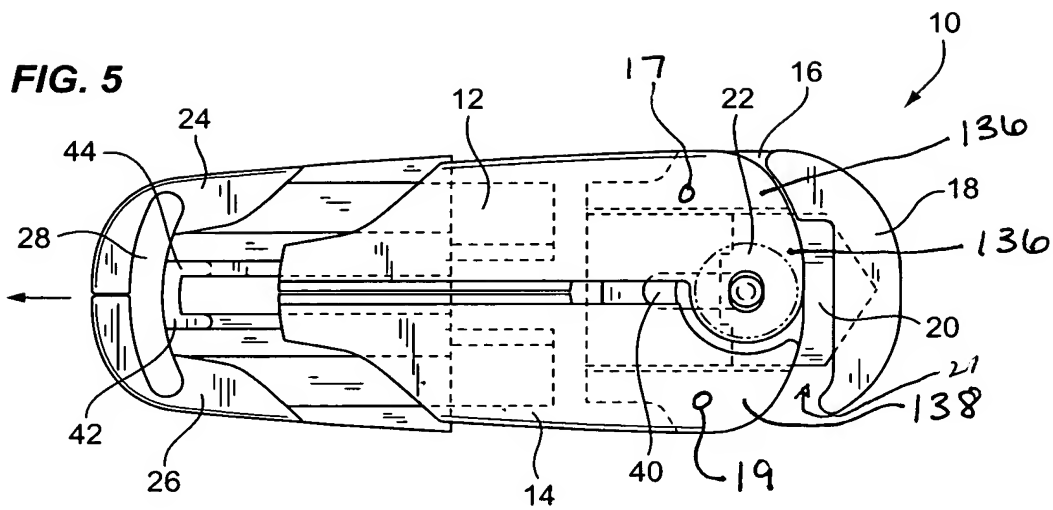


FIG. 4





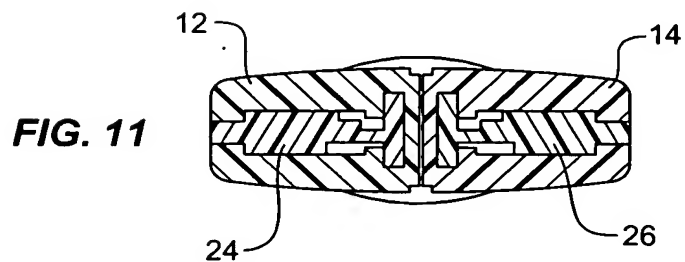
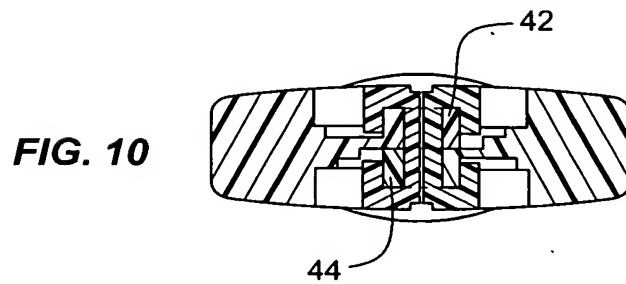
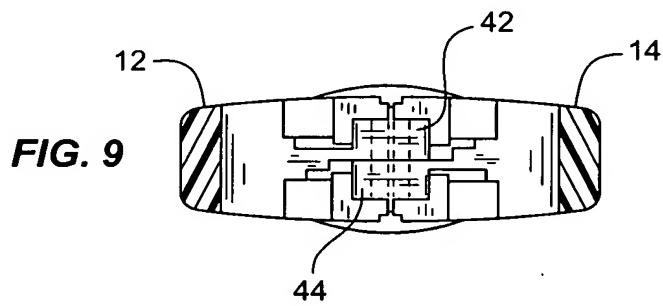
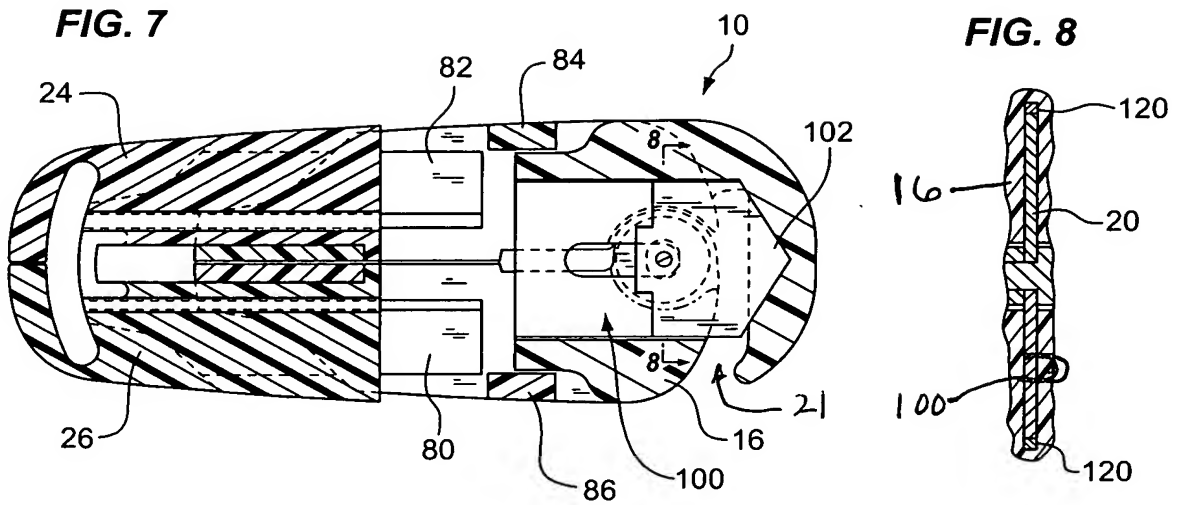


FIG. 12

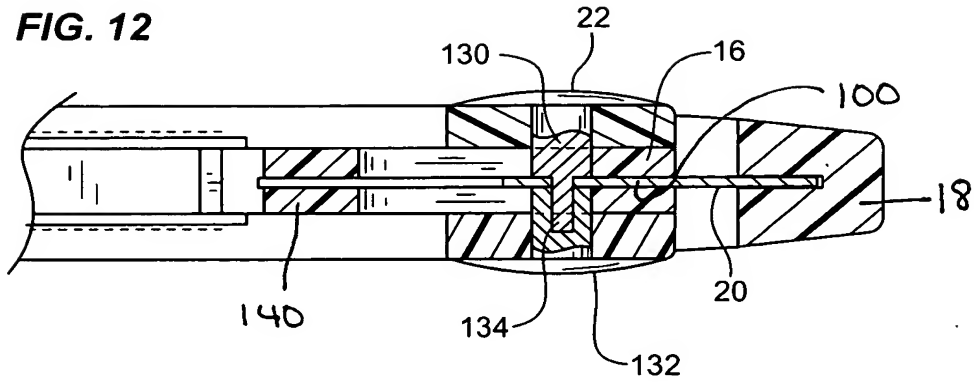


FIG. 13

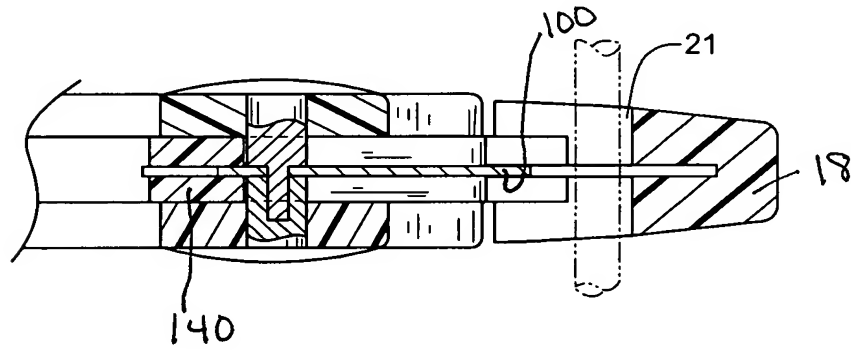


FIG. 14

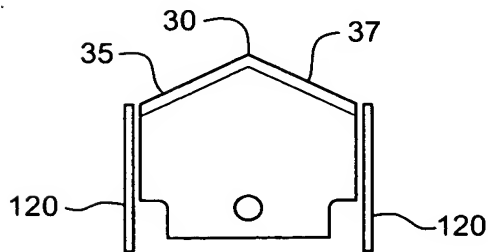


FIG. 15

